

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 9-15 is noted, with thanks.

Turning to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Hsu et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,674,417, and the rejection of claims 3-8 as being unpatentable over APA in view of Hsu et al. and further in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,686,933), Hsu et al., which was co-pending with the subject Application, has a U.S. filing date of May 17, 2001. The subject Application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-340437, filed November 8, 2000, a certified copy of which was filed with the initial filing of the subject Application. Accompanying this Amendment is a verified English translation of Applicants' underlying Japanese Priority Application to perfect Applicants' priority claim. With the perfection of Applicants' priority claim, the Hsu et al. U.S. Patent is removed as citable prior art. Thus, the rejections of claims 1 and 3-8 cannot be maintained.

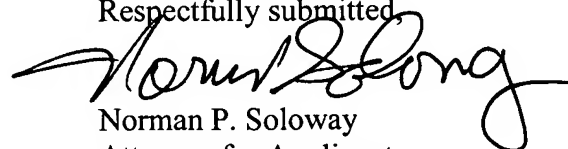
The indicated allowability of claim 2 if rewritten in independent form is noted, with thanks. However, in view of the foregoing comments and submissions, it is believed that all of the claims are allowable over the art. It is believed therefore, the Application now is in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

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with Submission of Priority Document

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 18, 2004, at Tucson, Arizona.

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